

REMARKS

Claims 13-24 remain in this application. Claims 1-12 have been canceled.

Entry of the above amendments is earnestly solicited. An early and favorable first action on the merits is earnestly requested.

Should there be any matters that need to be resolved in the present application; the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 25-0120 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

YOUNG & THOMPSON



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BC/lmt

**APPENDIX:**

The Appendix includes the following item:

A new Abstract of the Disclosure

## ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

Elements for connecting a first end section (3) of pipe elements to a second end section (4) of pipe elements , the connecting elements including a sealing joint (20) interposed between the end faces (7, 8) of the first and second end sections and fixing elements (32, 44) which are mounted on the first and second end sections and are coupled to first and second axial abutting elements along the first and second end sections in order to hold the above together and compress the sealing joint between them. The first axial abutting elements include an external shoulder (9) formed on the first end section near the end face and the second axial abutting elements include a fixed dowel (50) provided with elements (51) for axial fixing thereof along the second end section.